

Did you know?

Maryland ranks seventh in the nation for poultry production. Poultry makes up more than 30 percent of the State's \$1.4 billion in agricultural cash receipts and employs 15,000 people on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Maryland has 5,000 acres on 81 farms that are certified organic (4,500 plus acres in grain, hay, and pasture to support organic livestock production and 500 acres of certified organic vegetable acreage).

More than 200 MDA employees provide a full range of services to Maryland residents from field locations in 22 counties and Baltimore City. There are another 200 plus employees working from the Annapolis headquarters office.

The top three agriculture sectors in Maryland are 1. Poultry, 2. Greenhouse and Nursery, 3. Milk and Dairy Products.

Maryland's 80,000 dairy cows produced 1.3 billion pounds of milk last year.

Almost half of Maryland's 2.1 million acres of farmland is planted in corn and soybeans each year, primarily to supply the poultry and livestock industries with feed.

There are more than 87,000 horses valued at over \$680 million on 206,000 acres in Maryland.



Celebrating 30 Years of Service

Agriculture is Maryland's most important commercial industry. No other part of our economy touches the lives of all residents and visitors in so many ways everyday. Each time a we make a purchase at the gas pump or the grocery store, take a horse-back ride, eat a meal, visit a farm or a farmers' market, marvel at the views and benefits of farm and forest land, landscape a backyard, or enjoy catching and eating the bounty of a healthy Chesapeake Bay, we come in contact with the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) celebrated its 30th anniversary during 2003 by honoring two dozen 30-year employees and further reaching out to farmers, industry, elected officials, and citizens to find ways to increase the industry's strength and profitability. With development and economic pressures making farming more difficult, it is more important than ever to acknowledge the significance of agriculture to the quality of our lives.

Global trade, environmental protection, difficult financial times, record-breaking rainfall and drought, and initiatives to protect plant and animal health are just a few of the challenges and opportunities that the agency has met in 2003 with ingenuity, sound science, new technology, and good old-fashioned hard work. Because of MDA's education, regulation, promotion, service and preservation activities, Marylanders can expect a safe and healthy food supply and environment, fairness in the marketplace, and that agriculture will remain a strong economic force. Through this publication, we share some of our accomplishments from 2003.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION—SECRETARY'S OFFICE
fax (410) 841-5914
Secretary of Agriculture, Lewis R. Riley (410) 841-5880
Deputy Secretary, John R. Brooks, D.V.M. (410) 841-5881
Special Assistant to the Secretary/Intergovernmental Relations, Sandra Redmer (410) 841-5880
Special Assistant to the Secretary/Policy, Dr. Keith Menchey (410) 841-5881
Communications/Media, Sue duPont (410) 841-5881
Public Outreach, Buddy Bowling (410) 841-5882
Counsel to the Department, Craig A. Nielsen (410) 841-5883
Rural Maryland Council, Stephen McHenry (410) 841-5772
Information Technology Services, Michael J. Januk (410) 841-5737 fax (410) 841-5735
Administrative Services, Douglas H. Wilson (410) 841-5855
Fiscal Services, Joseph D. Lilly (410) 841-5855
Central Services, Joseph M. Harrington (410) 841-5900, fax (410) 841-5835
Human Resources, Charles J. Tarrant (410) 841-5840, fax (410) 841-5846

MARKETING, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES & CONSUMER SERVICES
fax (410) 841-5999
Assistant Secretary, S. Patrick McMillan (410) 841-5782
State Veterinarian, Dr. Phyllis Cassano (410) 841-5810
Animal Health Laboratories:
Centreville, Dr. William P. Higgins (410) 758-0846
College Park, Dr. James P. Davidson (301) 314-1870
Frederick, Dr. Virginia Pierce (301) 663-9528
Oakland, Dr. James I. Fearer (301) 334-2185
Salisbury, Dr. Daniel Bautista (410) 543-6610
Marketing and Agricultural Development,
Errol Small (410) 841-5770 fax (410) 841-5987
Agribusiness & Direct and National Marketing, Jane Storrs (410) 841-5770
International Marketing, Nancy Wallace (410) 841-5770
Aquaculture Development, Noreen Eberly (410) 841-5724, fax (410) 841-5970
Weights & Measures, Louis E. Straub (410) 841-5790, fax (410) 841-2765
Grading Services, Egg Inspection, and Grain Laws, Deanna L. Baldwin (410) 841-5769
Salisbury Office (410) 543-6630
Organic Certification, Valerie Frances (410) 841-2719
Agricultural Statistics, Norman Bennett (410) 841-5740

RESOURCE CONSERVATION
fax (410) 841-5736
Assistant Secretary, Royden N. Powell, III (410) 841-5865
Planning & Development, Louise Lawrence (410) 841-5863
Resource Conservation Operations, John C. Rhoderick (410) 841-5896
Administration, Janet A. Crutchley (410) 841-5865
Western/Central Md., Daniel J. Bard (301) 694-9290
Patuxent, Buddy Loffler (410) 841-5896
Eastern Shore, David J. Mister (410) 677-0802
Conservation Grants, Ed A. Sanders (410) 841-5864, fax (410) 841-5950
MD Agricultural Cost Share Program (410) 841-5864
Conservation Reserve Enhancement (410) 841-5864
Nutrient Management, Fred F. Samadani (410) 841-5959

PLANT INDUSTRIES & PEST MANAGEMENT
fax (410) 841-5914
Acting Assistant Secretary, Mary Ellen Setting (410) 841-5870
Mosquito Control, Cyrus R. Lesser (410) 841-5870
Annapolis, Patricia N. Ferrao (410) 841-5870
Hollywood, Patricia N. Ferrao (301) 373-4263
Riverdale, Jeannine M. Dorothy (301) 927-8357
Salisbury, David A. Schofield (410) 543-6626

Forest Pest Management, Robert H. Tichenor, Jr. (410) 841-5922, fax (410) 841-5835
Survey & Control, Mark C. Taylor (410) 841-5922
Central Maryland, Elizabeth M. Handley (301) 662-2074
Eastern Shore, Steve A. Tilley (410) 479-2047
Northeast Maryland, Robert L. Tatman (410) 879-8034
Southern Maryland, Sarah A. Hughes (301) 782-7155
Western Maryland, David L. Cohen (301) 777-3601
Forest Health Monitoring, Dr. Robert J. Rabaglia (410) 841-5922
Pesticide Regulation, Mary Ellen Setting (410) 841-5710, fax (410) 841-2765
Enforcement, Dennis W. Howard (410) 841-5710
Certification/Training, Edward A. Crow (410) 841-5710
Plant Protection & Weed Management, Dr. William F. Gimpel, Jr. (410) 841-5920, fax (410) 841-5835
Apiary & Nursery Inspection, Jerry Fischer (410) 841-5920
Pest Survey/Identification, Carol Holko (410) 841-5920
Noxious Weed Control, Don R. Robbins (410) 841-5871
State Chemist, Warren R. Bontoyan (410) 841-2721, fax (410) 841-2740
Registration, Robert D. Hopkins (410) 841-2753
Turf & Seed, Lois Capshaw (410) 841-5960, fax (410) 841-5969
Seed Laboratory (410) 841-5960
Turfgrass Activities, Vernon W. Cooper (410) 841-5960
Seed Certification, Dale A. Morris (410) 841-5960

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Board of Review, Chairman, Roger L. Richardson (410) 841-5880
Maryland Agricultural Commission, Chairman, Hank Passi
Executive Director, Buddy O. Bowling (410) 841-5882
Maryland Agricultural Fair Board, Chairperson, Harold Clark
Executive Secretary, Katrina B. Bradshaw (410) 841-5770
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Acting Chairman, Lloyd C. Jones
Executive Director, James Conrad (410) 841-5860
Maryland State Tobacco Authority, Chairman, Earl F. Hance
Executive Secretary, Ray E. Hutchins (410) 841-5770
Maryland Horse Industry Board, Acting Chairman, Gregory Gingery
Executive Director, J. Robert Burk (410) 841-5822
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, President, John O'Mara, D.V.M.
Administrative Spec., Carol Reynolds (410) 841-5862
State Soil Conservation Committee, Chairman, J. Bruce Yerkes
Executive Secretary, Louise Lawrence (410) 841-5863
Aquaculture Advisory Committee, Chairman, Aaron Morgan
Aquaculture Coordinator, Noreen Eberly (410) 841-5724
Maryland Winery and Grape Growers Advisory Board, Chairman, Vacant
Agricultural Coordinator, Jane Storrs (410) 841-5770
Seafood Marketing Advisory Committee, Chairman, William Woodfield
Agricultural Coordinator, Noreen Eberly (410) 841-5820
Maryland Organic Certification Advisory Committee, Chairman, Errol Mattox
Agricultural Coordinator, Valerie Frances (410) 841-2719

MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Director (301) 405-2072
CES Home & Garden Center 1-800-342-2507
www.agnr.umd.edu



Printed on recycled paper

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-7080

Baltimore/Annapolis (410) 841-5700 / Washington Metro Area (301) 261-8106
MD Relay Service (TTY Users) 800-735-2258 / Toll Free 800-492-5590 / Fax (410) 841-5914

www.mda.state.md.us



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Highlights

2003

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor / Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor / Lewis R. Riley, Secretary / John R. Brooks, Deputy Secretary

PRESERVATION of Agricultural Land and PROTECTION of the Environment

Protection of one of the region's most unique and important resources—the Chesapeake Bay—and preservation of the best farmland to sustain agriculture well into the future are two of the most challenging tasks facing MDA today. Through science-based programs and strategies, innovative partnerships, and political commitment, Maryland is a leader in these areas.

U Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, working with the Administration of Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. made 123 easement offers using \$21 million in bond funds, along with matching funds from local and federal governments, to permanently preserve 12,500 acres of prime agricultural land. Today, the State of Maryland, along with our local government partners, continues to lead the nation in agricultural land preservation with over 425,000 preserved.



U The 2002 Farm Bill authorized a demonstration project that would use U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to strengthen the rural economy and protect natural resources on the Delmarva Peninsula. During the year, MDA worked with a steering committee of stakeholders to craft a \$114 million proposal entitled, The Maryland Working Lands Initiative, a Delmarva Conservation Corridor Project. The proposal was part of a larger, application submitted to USDA with Delaware and Accomack and Northampton counties in Virginia. The Maryland proposal addresses agricultural and forest land preservation as well as cost-share support for improving irrigation systems, planting cover crops and enhancing water management. New grant and loan funds for the research and development of alternative crops and funding of new technologies and enterprises that add diversity to Delmarva agriculture and improve the bottom line for farming were also included in the proposal.

U The gypsy moth control program achieved a 100 percent protection of the 14,053 acres of trees treated

this spring. This is the 12th time in 13 years that the program saw a success rate of 98 percent or better in its efforts to protect landscape and forest trees from damage caused by the gypsy moth.

U The agency provided technical assistance to help soil conservation districts develop 1,100 new soil conservation and water quality plans to help farmers prevent erosion and nutrient runoff on 103,000 acres of land. Another 1,000 plans benefiting 125,000 acres of farmland were updated to ensure their continued effectiveness in protecting natural resources.

U Maryland farmers completed more than 3,500 conservation projects on their farms using more than \$9.2 million in cost-share grants provided by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Farmers participating in the program invested more than \$1 million of their own money into best management practices that will collectively prevent an estimated 1.7 million pounds of nitrogen and 75,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering Maryland waterways each year.

U During 2003, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provided more than \$5 million in cost share funds and bonus payments to farmers who installed best management practices on 17,800 acres of environmentally sensitive land. During the year, approximately \$2,500,000 in rental payments was paid to farmers who agreed to take streamside property, certain highly erodible land or wetlands out of production for 10–15 years. During the last five years, CREP funds have been used to protect nearly 65,000 acres of environmentally sensitive cropland in Maryland.

U The MDA offered its empty pesticide container recycling program to farmers, commercial applicators, golf courses, and public agencies at 16 locations in Maryland from June through October, 2003. To date, 25,000 containers have been inspected and collected from 107 participants, keeping the containers and potentially hazardous chemical residue out of landfills.

PROMOTION of Agriculture and Profitable Farming

To increase profitability, Maryland farmers are constantly searching for new markets and outlets to sell their products, for value-added opportunities, and for expansion into foreign trade. The MDA has been successful in assisting them in several of these areas.

U On June 23, after Tyson Foods announced plans to close its Berlin processing facility thereby affecting 650 employees and 155 poultry farmers, Governor Ehrlich established the first-ever “action team” to identify vulnerabilities of the poultry industry and recommend ways

the State can help the industry remain strong. The team—comprised of farmers, bankers, Eastern Shore political leaders and the Secretary of Agriculture—provided 16 recommendations to the Administration with the cumulative goal of encouraging state policy that will support poultry farmers.

U The department was directed by the 2003 General Assembly to coordinate a task force to improve the market for grain in Maryland. The Task Force on the Marketing of Grain and Other Agricultural Products was created in response to the closing of the last operating grain exporting facility in Baltimore. The closing of that facility depressed prices for farm grain commodities, particularly soybeans. Through coordination between the task force, the Carroll and Frederick county governments and the Perdue Company, a grain trans-loading facility in Central Maryland was up and running in time to serve the industry for the 2003 fall harvest. The task force is expected to present its recommendations before the end of the year.

U To promote the increased sale of Rockfish, the Seafood Marketing program, in conjunction with the Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission, created the “Maryland Rockfish Celebration.” In 2003, the (Celebration)—a program funded by a \$10 surcharge fee collected from commercial fishing and seafood processing licenses—included more than 35 restaurants, grocery stores, and seafood markets throughout the state. More than 50 restaurants and retail markets participated in another marketing campaign, “Make a Splash with Maryland Seafood” held in October. Other seafood promotions revolved around seasonal holidays and include “Home for the Holidays with Maryland Seafood” and “Fish on Fridays” in the spring.

U The Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) is currently at its strongest state of its five-year existence having a new funding source and an executive director. The board, in conjunction with the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service, completed the first-ever Maryland Equine Census. The census documented 87,000 equine in Maryland with more than 685,000 acres devoted to equine-related businesses accounting for more than \$5.2 billion of equine-related assets.

U In 2003, MDA's International Marketing and Trade Development office successfully opened new markets in Cuba, Tobago, and Africa for fresh fruit, grain, livestock, and processed foods. In addition, the agency expanded business opportunities in 12 other countries, including shipments of horses to Korea and cattle to China.

U MDA helped promote the state's 74 farmers' markets located throughout the state. Approximately, 500 Maryland farmers participated at the markets, providing a source of locally grown products to the citizens of

Maryland and significant direct market income to farmers.

U With the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, MDA leveraged general funds of \$65,000 to generate a total commitment of \$821,000 in support of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The program provides voucher checks to at-risk women, children, and seniors to buy fresh locally grown fruits, vegetables, and cut herbs. This program provided benefit to 33,000 WIC families and 7,000 seniors. Maryland farmers also benefit from this program as voucher checks must be redeemed at local farmer markets.

U The Delmarva ‘Shore-to-Store’ program, jointly funded by Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia, is a highly successful effort to assist farmers on the Delmarva Peninsula market their products in regional stores including Giant Food, Super Fresh, Super Thrift, Thriftway, Food Rite, and Acme. Estimates of local sales to stores in Maryland exceed \$2 million in 2003.

Agricultural and Consumer Protection SERVICES

The department provides a wide range of free and fee-based services to protect natural resources, animal health and the agriculture industry and to ensure fairness in the marketplace.

U Excessive rainfall and unusually high tides during most of 2003, capped by Hurricane Isabel in September, caused record numbers of mosquitoes, cases of mosquito-borne diseases among humans and equines, and acres treated with insecticide (300,000 aerially). The widespread occurrence of mosquito-borne diseases resulted in greatly increased demand by counties and communities for mosquito control services. Nearly 400 new communities (totaling 2,050)—a 23 percent increase—in 22 counties and Baltimore City were included in the program. More communities had asked to be included but could not be accommodated due to a lack of resources.

U The State Chemist's office expanded its toxicant screening programs of livestock feed, pet food, and horse feed



to protect the marketplace from products that may be harmful or dangerous to agriculture, the environment and human health. Toxicants include illegal mammalian tissue, drugs/antibiotics, heavy metals, pesticides, mycotoxins, and copper in sheep feed.

U The Turf and Seed office's supervised seed mixing program continues to grow due to a large demand by Maryland and out-of-state seed companies for high quality seed. Mixes supervised during FY2003 totaled 1,776,400 pounds, up from 1,700,899 pounds in FY2002, a 4.4 percent increase. Seed germination service testing in the laboratory increased in 2003 as producers applied different fungicides to small grain seeds in an attempt to raise germination rates that were low due to excessive rainfall.

U Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, federal, state, and local governments have intensified their efforts to assure a safe food supply and protect the economy of American agriculture from both intentional and unintentional disasters. The MDA is currently working with the Battelle Corporation, the Maryland poultry industry, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and Delaware and Virginia to undertake a comprehensive risk/vulnerability assessment and tabletop exercise for a disease outbreak within the Delmarva poultry industry.

U Maryland has a network of five animal health diagnostic labs placed strategically across the state. The labs have been evaluated for equipment and personnel needed to upgrade them up to meet the needs of today's animal agriculture. The MDA has currently received \$472,000 in federal grants for programs, equipment, and personnel to begin that process.

REGULATION

Through the centuries, agriculture has been the core of all commerce. As our marketplaces and concerns for safety have expanded, most departments of agriculture in the United States retain the regulatory responsibility for ensuring a safe and healthy food supply and environment and fairness in the marketplace for consumers, including the agricultural industry.

U Nursery inspection, pest survey, and weed control staff detected more than a half dozen serious agricultural or forest pest and disease introductions this year in Maryland. Among these are the emerald ash borer, southern pine beetle, *Ralstonia solanacearum* which causes southern bacterial wilt, giant hogweed, and *Pryeria sinica*, a significant defoliator of ornamental Euonymous shrubs. The department's regulatory actions with the southern bacterial wilt disease prevented the loss of more than \$2 million worth of assorted crops in Maryland.



U The Weights and Measures Section received accreditation from the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) on August 7, 2003. NVLAP is an independent agency administered by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that provides third party accreditation to testing and calibration laboratories. NVLAP accredits industry and manufacturers as well as government agencies such as the Maryland Laboratory to meet the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025 and the relevant requirements to ISO 9002.

U As of November 1, 2003, Maryland farmers had submitted 5,135 nutrient management plans, updates, and delay forms covering 1.3 million acres or 85 percent, of land into compliance with the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998.

U Certification, licensing, and inspection of pesticide applicators and dealers helps ensure that when pesticides must be used they are used correctly. The Pesticide Regulation Section processed 490 applications for certification as a pesticide applicator, examined 540 individuals for certification, and certified a total of 3,048 commercial applicators and 1,040 public agency applicators. In addition, a total of 1,479 pesticide businesses were licensed, 309 public agencies were permitted and 152 restricted use pesticide dealers were permitted and 5,656 employees were registered and issued identification card.

EDUCATION and OUTREACH

Education and cooperation anchor MDA's philosophy toward fulfilling its regulatory mandate, helping farm profitability, and ensuring a strong appreciation of agriculture among all Marylanders now and into the future. Throughout 2003, MDA conducted a diverse array of education and outreach programs.

U At the request of Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., MDA hosted a one-day nutrient management summit on August 5 for farmers, nutrient management consultants, agricultural organizations, environmental groups and other stakeholders to solicit recommendations for making the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 more workable for farmers while further protecting the environment. The 300 registrants met in small groups to brainstorm issues ranging from who should be covered by the law, to enforcement and record keeping requirements. The groups brought forward more than 50 suggestions for improving the program. Governor Ehrlich has included many of these recommendations in his proposed 2004 legislative initiatives.

U On July 26–31, Maryland hosted the 2003 Canon International Envirothon, America's largest high school environmental education competition. Approximately 250 teenagers from 41 states and six Canadian provinces traveled to Mount Saint Mary's College and Seminary in Emmitsburg to compete for a share of more than \$30,000 in college scholarship money and prizes. The MDA staff worked with soil conservation districts, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other state environmental agencies for more than three years to produce the event. The Maryland team finished fifth out of 47 teams. www.mascd.net/envirothon

U MDA contracted with Telamon Corporation, through its AmeriCorps National Farmworker Environmental Education Program, for the ninth consecutive year to provide pesticide safety training to 695 farm workers in Maryland as well as to eight health care providers, 12 pesticide handlers, and 264 farm worker children.

U The Maryland Agricultural Commission, which advises the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor on issues of concern to the agricultural community, toured Carroll, Wicomico, and Dorchester counties to meet with local agriculture leaders and companies and see first-hand which state policies are working and what challenges the various industry sectors face. During those tours, the group held three public meetings to garner input and discussion from local communities.

U With the support of \$167,000 in federal funds, MDA with the University of Maryland and the USDA Risk Management Agency, successfully developed and managed a Crop Insurance Education Project that contributed to a 10 percent increase in the use of crop



insurance by the state's farmers compared to 2002. In 2003, the state's farmers invested in \$162 million of coverage through 5,031 policies which resulted in \$5.4 million of indemnity payments by December 1, 2003.

U Maryland received USDA funding to begin a National Johnne's Disease and Dairy Quality Management Plan. The program serves 10 dairy herds with disease surveillance, education, and prevention activities. Plans are to expand the program to include more herds next year.

U The Maryland Invasive Species Council, of which MDA is a member, rode the coattails of the Northern Snakehead fish media coverage by launching a website and “Invader of the Month” campaign. The effort garnered extensive media attention during the year, drawing attention to the problems and solutions associated with invasive species. www.mdinvasivesp.org

U Thousands of people attended the agency's 30th Anniversary Open House in March and learned about some of the many ways that the agency touches each of our lives every day. Attendees explored the many facets of the agency through exhibits, laboratory tours, and hands-on activities. Activities for all ages included a petting zoo, making slime with the State Chemist, taste-testing sautéed crickets prepared by entomologists, egg-candling, and apiary demonstrations, to name a few.

AT THE MDA

All of the department's activities highlighted in this report are supported by Public Information and Outreach offices that provide media outreach, public relations and a multitude of other communications strategies; an Information Technology Office that provides computer, internet, and internal communications capabilities at the Annapolis headquarters and the agency's field offices; legal guidance from the Assistant Attorney General's office; and the Administrative Services, Human Resources and Central Services Offices that provide everything necessary to keep the agency and its staff up and running to serve Marylanders all across the State.